

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 7, and 9-12 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of July 7, 2003, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 2 are objected to because B and N are not defined. The Examiner notes that there is inconsistency in the unit of B and N and ppm used in the inequality of claims 1 and 2.

It is respectfully submitted that B is the chemical symbol for boron, and N is the chemical symbol for nitrogen. Anyone skilled in the art of metallurgy or metal working would know that these are the conventional symbols for these elements.

It is not understood what is the inconsistency in the inequality in claims 1 and 2.

Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2-254139 to Toyo Kohan.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The material for a shadow mask in JP 2-254139 contains 0.01 to 0.05% chromium. Chromium is added to the shadow mask material in this patent to make chromium carbide and to improve the press formability characteristics. The material for a shadow mask of the present invention does not contain chromium. The chemical composition of the material of the present invention is different from that of JP 2-254139.

The annealing process of JP 2-254139 is effected by box annealing, and it takes several hours to anneal the material for a shadow mask. The annealing of the present invention is effected by continuous annealing in an atmosphere of 79% or less hydrogen concentration, dew point of -30-70°C, and annealing only requires 60 to 120 seconds to anneal material for a shadow mask.

It is noted that the prior art made of record is merely considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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